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Center for **Economic Integrity**

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ, 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

JUL 14 2017

RE: Docket Numbers: E-01345A-16-0036 & E-01345A-16-0123

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Dear Commissioners,

In regards to the upcoming decision on the APS rate increase, we urge you to vote no. We have been informed that the Residential Utility Consumer Office and the Commission staff initially reported that the rate increase APS asked for was not justified. Given these statements we are understandably skeptical. Please use your best judgment when casting your vote on this case.

The Southwest Center for Economic Integrity works to build economically strong communities for all and opposes unfair corporate practices. We accomplish our mission through research, education, and outreach in conjunction with our nonprofit coalition partners. We have successfully led statewide efforts against payday lending, conducted research on the negative impacts of high cost small loan lending here in Arizona and assisted in the development of financial capability trainings and workshops.

The Center strongly urges APS to provide more tools for consumers to use when trying to reduce their utility costs. Cost saving tools makes good economic sense for consumers, businesses and APS over the long term. Raising rates for consumers will make it harder to invest in energy efficiency and other opportunities that can reduce ratepayer bills. Affordable cost and fair treatment for Arizona rate payers will ensure that communities are stabilized which will give rise to stronger local economies.

Thank you for your time.

Kelly S. Griffith
Executive Director

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